



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: April 18, 2023

In Control: Head Start Policy Council Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Correspondence – ACF-IM-HS-23-01 The Role of Head Start Programs in Addressing Lead in Water

SUMMARY:

This item presents the following from the Department of Human Services (DHS) Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs for action by the Head Start Policy Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Lead is a toxic metal and there is no safe blood lead level for children because their bodies are still developing. Children under the age of 6 are at greatest risk for significant and potentially lifelong health problems as a result of exposure. They are more likely to come into contact with lead through paint or dust since young children often put their hands or objects in their mouths.

However, lead in drinking water can also be a significant contributor to overall exposure to lead. This is particularly true for infants whose diet consists of food and liquids made with water, such as baby food or formula. The adverse health effects of lead exposure can be both physical and behavioral. Even low levels of lead in children can lead to anemia, behavior and learning problems, and other concerns.

Head Start programs have a critical role to play in preventing lead poisoning in children. Programs are required to maintain a facility that is free from pollutants, hazards, and toxins that are accessible to children and could endanger their safety - and that includes lead in water and paint. As part of Head Start monitoring, programs can expect to be asked about their processes to identify lead hazards and mitigate them. This Information Memorandum highlights available resources for programs to address lead in water specifically.

ISSUE:

Rules and regulations for the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Start-Child Care Partnership grants as set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) require the Head Start Policy Council to review programmatic actions to oversee certain key responsibilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no anticipated impact to the general fund as a result of these actions.

ALTERNATIVES:

The review of the items included in this memorandum are required for program compliance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rules and regulations for Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will present a briefing on this item subject to possible action by the HSPC Committee. Staff recommends review and approval of the items included in this memorandum.